

Mental Health Treatment Study (MHTS)



The Mental Health Treatment Study (MHTS) will focus on the impact that better access to treatment and rehabilitation services would have on outcomes such as medical recovery, functioning, employment, and benefit receipt for SSDI beneficiaries with a primary impairment of schizophrenia or affective disorder. The evaluation will assess the impact and cost effectiveness of the intervention, including an identification of the specific factors within the interventions that result in positive employment outcomes.

What locations are involved?

Bridgeport, CT	Chicago, IL
Norwich, CT	Peoria, IL
Manchester, NH	Spring Lake Park, MN
Framingham, MA	Mentor, OH
New York, NY	Indianapolis, IN
Bethesda, MD	San Antonio, TX
Washington, DC	Kansas City, KS
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Denver, CO
St. Petersburg, FL	Grant's Pass, OR
Smyrna, GA	Portland, OR
Aiken, SC	Vancouver, WA

How does it work?

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will provide outpatient mental health disorder treatments (pharmaceutical and psychotherapeutic) and/or employment supports that are not covered by other insurance for study participants. The contract for the study was awarded to Westat on September 29, 2005.

Westat has partnered with the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Value Options, Dartmouth, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis to implement the study. Enrollment of participants is expected to begin in the summer of 2006.

The study will address several research questions, including:

(A) Does providing psychosocial services, drugs and employment services improve the health status and functioning of DI beneficiaries with mental disorders? (B) Do some subgroups of beneficiaries with mental disorders benefit more than others when treatment is provided? (C) Is treatment more cost effective for some subgroups of beneficiaries? (D) If beneficiaries decline to participate, what are the primary reasons? (E) If treatment is unsuccessful, what are the primary reasons? (F) What are the characteristics of beneficiaries who significantly increase activity as a result of treatment?

SSA's Expectations

The proportion of SSDI beneficiaries qualifying for benefits due to a mental disorder has been growing. While most forms of mental illness are treatable, many beneficiaries with mental impairments do not receive the treatment and employment support services that could assist individuals with disabilities to sufficiently increase their ability to work.

For More Information

If you have questions about the Mental Health Treatment Study, please contact us at ssa.demonstrations@ssa.gov



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